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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/087,891	02/28/2002	Paul Kitson	KPG-5041US	8477
31344	7590	10/14/2003	EXAMINER	
RATNERPRESTIA P.O. BOX 1596 WILMINGTON, DE 19899			CHU, JOHN S Y	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1752	

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/087,891	KITSON ET AL
Examiner	Art Unit	
John S. Chu	1752	

-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 February 2002 .

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office action is in response to the application filed February 28, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over VAN DAMME et al.

The claimed invention is drawn to an imageable element comprising, in order a substrate having a hydrophilic surface, an underlayer comprising a first polymeric material over the hydrophilic surface, and a top layer comprising a second polymeric material over the underlayer, in which: the second polymeric material is crosslinked; the top layer is ink receptive and insoluble in an alkaline developer; the top layer and the underlayer are each removable by the alkaline developer following thermal exposure of the element; and the element comprises a photothermal conversion material.

VAN DAMME et al discloses a photosensitive element for lithographic printing plates comprising on a support having a hydrophilic surface a photosensitive layer and a thermosensitive layer wherein the thermosensitive layer may be crosslinked. This disclosure meets the claimed imageable element, see column 3, lines 20-30 of VAN DAMME et al.

VAN DAMME et al fails to explicitly disclose a crosslinked top layer in an example.

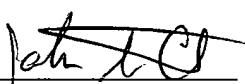
It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of photoimageable elements to crosslink the thermosensitive top layer as suggested by VAN DAMME et al and reasonably expect same or similar results for making high quality printing plates.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. VERCHUEREN et al '036, '119, VERMEERSCH et al '689 and '663 and VAN DAMME et al '113 are cited of interest and are the US Patent version to the EP references submitted by applicant.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Chu whose telephone number is (703) 308-2298. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:30 am to 6:00 pm.

The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-7718.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


John S. Chu
Primary Examiner, Group 1700

J.Chu
October 1, 2003